

We claim:

1. A system for providing a secure document, the system including:

5 a computer network including a computer and an RFID transponder, the computer having a database, and the database containing a first authorization key;

the secure document, the secure document including an integrated RFID circuit coupled with a flexible substrate;

10 the flexible substrate having a surface, the surface visibly presenting an information;

the integrated RFID circuit coupled with the substrate, and the integrated RFID circuit having a durable memory, a controller, and a data security circuit;

15 the durable memory including an information storage sector and a protected sector, the information storage sector having a record of at least a portion of the information, and the protected sector having at least one datum not recorded within the information of the flexible substrate;

the controller coupled with the durable memory and the data security circuit, and the controller for enabling access to the durable memory by the RFID transponder as authorized by the data security circuit; and

20 the data security circuit for denying authority to the controller to execute instructions received in a message, where the message is not formatted at least partially in mathematical relationship to the first authorization key.

2. The system of claim 1, the system further comprising a printer, the printer communicatively coupled with the computer and the printer for adding visible information to the surface of the flexible substrate.

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3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first authorization key is at least partially computed on the basis of biometric data.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the message is a revocation of a validity state of the secure document.

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5. The system of claim 1, wherein the secure document is a payroll check.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the secure document is a certified check.

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7. The system of claim 1, wherein the secure document is a cashier's check.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the secure document is a note of currency issued by a governmental authority.

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9. The system of claim 1, the system further comprising:

a plurality of authorization keys, the plurality of authorization keys stored within the durable memory and the plurality of authorization keys stored within at least one data storage device communicatively coupled with the computer network; and

5 the plurality of authorization keys arranged within a hierarchy, wherein the data security circuit authorizes the controller to execute an instruction received within a message, wherein the message is at least partially formatted in mathematical relationship to at least one of the plurality of authorization keys, and the data security circuit limits a scope of execution of the instruction in light of the position of the at least one of the
10 plurality of authorization keys within the hierarchy.

10. A secure document system comprising:

a device comprising a flexible substrate coupled with an integrated circuit;

means for printing information onto a flexible substrate;

15 the integrated circuit including a durable memory storing digital data; and

the durable memory further storing at least one authorization key, wherein the key is written into the durable memory at approximately the time that visible information is added to the flexible substrate,

the integrated circuit including a circuit that allows external access to certain
20 portions or the stored digital data only to interrogators with the requisite authorization key or keys.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the printer further comprises an RFID transmitter,
the transmitter using the authorization key or keys to gain access to at least one
section of the durable memory.
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12. The system of claim 10, wherein the digital data includes a unique identification
number.
13. The system of claim 10, wherein the digital data includes a portion of the
10 information that is printed on the flexible substrate.
14. The system of claim 10, wherein the device is a form of currency document or other
monetary instrument.
- 15 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the device is a personal, certified, payroll, or other
form of check.
16. The device of claim 10, wherein the device is an airline ticket.

17. The system of claim 10, wherein the durable memory also includes other information about the ticket such as destination, a unique identity number, flight number, and cost of the ticket.

5 18. The system of claim 10, wherein the device is a coupon.

19. The system of claim 18, where the durable memory also includes additional information about the coupon such as the manufacturer of the coupon product, a unique identity number, or the redemption value of the coupon.

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20. The system of claim 1, wherein the first authorization key that includes a checksum, the checksum computed upon the basis of at least a portion of the information printed on said document.

15 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the checksum is computed upon the basis of at least one datum stored within the integrated RFID circuit and at least a portion of the information printed on the secure document.

22. The system of claim 2, wherein the secure document is a personal check

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23. The system of claim 2, wherein the secure document is an airline ticket.

24. The system of claim 2, wherein the durable memory stores information related to a travel destination.

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25. The system of claim 2, wherein the durable memory stores information related to an airline flight.

26. The system of claim 2, wherein the durable memory stores information related to a price of an airline ticket.

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27. The system of claim 2, wherein the durable memory stores information related to a coupon.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the durable memory stores information related to a manufacturer.

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29. The system of claim 27, wherein the durable memory stores information related to a product identifier.

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30. The system of claim 27, wherein the durable memory stores information related to a redemption value of the coupon.

31. A system for providing a secure document, the system including:

5 a computer network including a computer and an RFID transponder, the computer having a database, and the database containing at least two different authorization keys;

the secure document, the secure document including an integrated RFID circuit coupled with a flexible substrate;

10 the flexible substrate having a surface, the surface visibly presenting an information;

the integrated RFID circuit coupled with the substrate, and the integrated RFID circuit having a durable memory, a controller and a data security circuit;

the durable memory including at least two protected sectors, the each protected sector containing information not contained any of the other sectors; and

15 the controller coupled with the durable memory and the data security circuit, and the controller for enabling access to the durable memory by the RFID transponder only when authorized by the data security circuit in response to the presentation to the data security circuit of data and instructions that have been encoded with the correct authorization keys.

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32. The system of Claim 31, wherein different authorization keys are provided to different parties to form a hierarchy of access to various sectors of protected information.

5 33. A method for detecting the use counterfeit currency wherein financial instruments are fabricated with embedded electronic devices containing multiple sectors of hidden information protected by multiple authorization keys and initial authentication is achieved using certain keys, and wherein back-up authentication is achieved by using other authentication keys not available to the parties doing the initial authentication.

10 34. The system of claim 1, wherein the durable memory further comprises a record of an EPC.

35. The system of claim 1, wherein the durable memory further comprises a record of an Electronic Product Code.

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